

## November 17 - 23, 2015

### Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

This is the first waterfowl ground count of the 2014-15 wintering period. Many areas did not have the opportunity to survey this week as this is a week earlier than we traditionally conduct the survey. In general, low numbers of ducks are around. Warm weather in Kentucky and in northern areas has the mass of duck migration still well north of Kentucky. Look for improvements next week with cold fronts hitting the US and Canada. This breeding season had the highest number of ducks ever recorded on breeding ground surveys. Look for above average numbers of ducks to eventually make it to Kentucky.

Overall, most of the states wetlands are in relatively good shape. In some regions local agricultural plantings were impacted by the late spring and/or high water and yields may be reduced. Wetland conditions should only improve with additional precipitation.

Kentucky's 2015-16 duck and goose seasons open Thursday, November 26. The first duck season segment will close on Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. The second segment of duck season will open December 7<sup>th</sup> and remain open until Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Goose season will also close January 31<sup>st</sup>. Good luck to all waterfowl hunters and remember to be safe whenever you are out pursuing the resource this hunting season.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	43,000 Ducks 825 Geese	98% Mallards. 2% Gadwalls, Green wing teal, Shovelers, Widgeons, Wood Ducks, and Pintails  Mostly Canada geese with a few White Fronts.	Conditions are fair. Most units experienced crop failures. Plenty of moist soil plants persisted though. Rest areas are in great shape. Wheat planted this fall is greening up nicely. Water levels are ~20% full and pumps are still running.
Barren River Lake	No Count		
Birdsville Island	No count		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	No Count		
Duck Island	6800 ducks 175 Canada Geese	95% Mallards, 5% GW Teal. Other species noted, but not in significant numbers were gadwall, pintail, shoveler, and black duck.	Habitat conditions this year can be considered good / excellent. No row crops were planted due the flooding. Japanese millet was seeded where conditions allowed.
Boatwright WMA	6,800 Ducks	99% Mallards	No crops, but moist soil plants responded well. Holding area's ~50% full.

Doug Travis WMA	950 ducks	65% mallards, 20% wood ducks, 5% gadwalls, 5% GW teal and 5% ringneck ducks.	All 3 wells running, area 60% flooded, area food supply is msu natural feed, Japanese millet, browntop millet, buckwheat, sunflower, and winter wheat.
Cave Run Lake	55 Ducks 150 Canada Geese	25% mallards, 20% goldeneye, 20% teal, 20% gadwall. 15% Mergansers	Few birds around at this point
Clear Creek WMA	No Count		Good water, some good moist soil. Should provide good opening day prospects.
Peabody WMA	56 ducks 202 Canada Geese 80 Snow Geese	80% mallard	Moist soil units still low due to light rainfall.
Sloughs WMA	12,880 ducks 105 CG geese 170 W-F geese 75 Snow geese	90% mallard, 10% Gadwall, green winged teal, blue winged teal, black duck, northern shoveler, scaup and wood duck present in small numbers.	The ducks are using moist soil units with natural vegetation. With this week's rain our MSUs are looking very good and nearly full. More white-fronted geese are present than survey detected
Yellowbank WMA	430 ducks	Mostly wood ducks with 25% mallards and gadwall. Few odd puddle ducks present on refuge.	Water level on most units over 2/3 capacity.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	47 ducks	60% mallard, 10% gadwall, 20% black duck, remainder divers.	Water levels at seasonal pool, except lake Buck is 3/4 full. Moist Soil Unit at 1/2 pool.
Herrington Lake	No Count		
Taylorsville Lake	No Count		
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	No Count		
Green River WMA	No Count		